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Westminster, December 31.

YEsterday the Parliament met. The King came to the House of Peers attended with the usual Solemnity, and being seated on the Throne in His Royal Robes, the Commons were sent for up by the Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, and they attending His Majesty accordingly, the Lord Keeper, by His Majesty's Command, signified to them His Majesty's Pleasure, That they should forthwith proceed to the Choice of a fit Person to be their Speaker, and present him to His Majesty the next morning. The Commons being returned to their own House, made Choice of *Robert Harley* Esq; to be their Speaker, who being this day presented to His Majesty seated on the Throne in the House of Peers, His Majesty did graciously Approve of him; And then His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Promise My Self you are met together full of that just Sense of the Common Danger of Europe, *and that Resentment of the late Proceedings of the* French *King, which has been so fully and universally expressed in the Loyal and Seasonable Addresses of My People.*

The Owning and Setting-up the Pretended Prince of Wales *for King of* England, *is not only the highest Indignity offered to Me and the Nation, but does so nearly concern every Man who has a Regard for the Protestant Religion, or the present and future Quiet and Happiness of his Country, that I need not press you to lay it seriously to Heart, and to consider what further effectual Means may be used for Securing the Succession of the Crown in the Protestant Line, and Extinguishing the Hopes of all Pretenders, and their open or secret Abettors.*

By the French *King's placing his Grandson on the Throne of* Spain, *he is in a Condition to oppress the rest of* Europe, *unless speedy and effectual Measures be taken. Under this Pretence he is become the real Master of the whole* Spanish *Monarchy, he has made it to be entirely depending on* France, *and disposes of it as of his own Dominions, and by that Means he has Surrounded his Neighbours in such a manner, that tho' the Name of Peace may be said to continue, yet they are put to the Expence and Inconveniencies of a War.*

This must affect England *in the nearest and most sensible Manner, in respect to our Trade, which will soon become Precarious in all the Valuable Branches of it, in respect to Our Peace and Safety at Home; which we cannot hope should long continue, and in respect to that Part which* England *ought to take in the Preservation of the Liberty of* Europe.

In order to obviate the General Calamity with which the rest of Christendom *is threatned by this Exorbitant Power of* France, *I have concluded several Alliances, according to the Encouragement given Me by both Houses of Parliament; which I will direct shall be laid before You, and which I doubt not you will Enable Me to make good.*

There are some other Treaties still depending, that shall be likewise communicated to You as soon as they are perfected.

It is fit I should tell You, the Eyes of all Europe *are upon this Parliament; all Matters are at stand till your Resolutions are known, and therefore no Time ought to be lost.*

You have an Opportunity, by God's Blessing, to Secure to you and your Posterity the Quiet Enjoyment of your Religion and Liberties, if you are not wanting to your selves, but will Exert the ancient Vigour of the English *Nation; But I tell you plainly, My Opinion is, If You do not lay hold on this Occasion, you have no Reason to hope for another.*

In order to do your Part, it will be necessary to have a great Strength at Sea, and to provide for the Security of our Ships in Harbour, and also, that there be such a Force at Land, as is expected in Proportion to the Forces of our Allies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I do Recommend these Matters to you with that Concern and Earnestness which their Importance requires: At the same time I cannot but press you to take Care of the Publick Credit, which cannot be Preserved but by keeping Sacred that Maxim, That they shall never be Losers who trust to a Parliamentary Security.

It is always with Regret when I do ask Aids of my People; but you will observe, That I desire nothing which relates to any Personal Expence of Mine; I am only pressing you to do all you can for your own Safety and Honour at so Critical and Dangerous a Time; and am willing, that what is given should be wholly Appropriated to the Purposes for which it is intended.

And since I am speaking in this Head, I think it proper to put you in mind, That during the late War, I ordered the Accounts to be laid Yearly before the Parliament, and also gave My Assent to several Bills for Taking the Publick Accounts, that My Subjects might have Satisfaction how the Money given for the War was applied; and I am willing that Matter may be put in any further Way of Examination, that it may appear, whether there were any Misapplications and Mismanagements, or whether the Debt that remains upon Us has really arisen from the Shortness of the Supplies, or the Deficiency of the Funds.

I have already told you how necessary Dispatch will be for Carrying on that Great Publick Business; whereon Our Safety, and all that is Valuable to us depends. I hope, what Time can be Spared, will be employed about those other very desirable Things which I have so often Recommended from the Throne; I mean, the forming some good Bills for Employing the Poor, for Encouraging Trade, and the further Suppressing of Vice.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I hope you are come together determined to avoid all manner of Disputes and Differences, and resolved to Act with a General and Hearty Concurrence for Promoting the Common Cause; which alone can make this a Happy Session.

I should think it as great a Blessing as could befal England, *if I could observe you as much inclined to lay aside those Unhappy Fatal Animosities which Divide and Weaken you, as I am disposed to make all my Subjects Safe and Easy as to any, even the highest, Offences Committed against Me.*

Let me Conjure you to Disappoint the only Hopes of Our Enemies by your Unanimity. I have shewn, and will always shew, how desirous I am to be the Common Father of all My People: Do you in like manner lay aside Parties and Divisions; Let there be no other Distinction heard of among Us for the future, but of those who are for the Protestant Religion and the present Establishment, and of those who mean a Popish Prince, and a French *Government.*

I will only add this, If you do in good Earnest desire to see England *hold the Ballance of* Europe, *and to be indeed at the Head of the Protestant Interest, it will appear by your right Improving the present Opportunity.*

Whitehall, Dec. 30. The following Address from the Borough of *New Malton* was presented to His Majesty by *Wm. Palmes* Esq; one of their Representatives in Parliament.

Most Gracious and Dread Sovereign,

WE Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Bayliff, Burgesses, and Inhabitants of the Borough of New Malton *in the County of* York; *do with all humility beg leave to assure Your Majesty, That as nothing in this World can add to the Comforts we enjoy under Your Gracious Reign, (which we pray God may continue many and many a year) so nothing can more sensibly affect us than to find any Disturbance or Interruption endeavoured to be given to it.*

The late Attempt that has been made upon Your Majesty's Undoubted Right and Title to this Crown by the bold Invader of the Liberties of Europe, *in declaring the pretended Prince of* Wales *King of Your Majesty's Dominions, cannot but fill every true* English *Heart with the utmost Indignation, to find their Liberties, their Lives, and, which is more than both, their Religion destined by this Proceeding to his Ambitious Will and Pleasure; to come at which, he does not stick to break through all that Faith and Stipulation which former Times held Sacred.*

The Motives that have led him to it, and the Encouragement he has met with from any Abettors here, and how he has been working his Designs, and whether he has not tried those Methods in this Kingdom which he found so successful in another, are Subject Matters for a higher Inquisition, and which we hope our Representatives in Parliament will look into; and that by the Prudent Conduct of Your Majesty, and the Advice and Assistance of that Great Assembly, England *shall still preserve her Liberties, and those Persons brought to Condign Punishment that have given Encouragement to this audacious Act, and that we shall hear no more of this false Title; but that all who love the Prosperity of* England *will joyn with us in the assuring Your Majesty, That we will, to the utmost of our Lives and Fortunes, stand by and assist Your Majesty in all such Measures as You shall think fit to take for the Vindicating Your just Right and Title, and the better Preservation of Your Sacred Person and Government, and the True Protestant Religion, against all Your Enemies both at home and abroad.*

The following Address from the Borough of *Bridgnorth* was presented to His Majesty by Sir *Edward Acton* Bar. and *Roger Pope* junior Esq; their Representatives in Parliament, introduced by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of *Bradford.*

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Bayliffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of Your Majesty's ancient Borough of *Bridgnorth* in the County of *Salop.*

Great Sir,

WE Your Majesty's Loyal Subjects, are highly sensible of what Your Majesty has done, in restoring and preserving (under God)